

REMARKS

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SEP 28 2006

I. STATUS OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 29-30, 32-51 and 53-54 are pending in the application. Claim 53 has been amended.

II. COMMUNICATION WITH THE EXAMINER

In their response of June 28, 2006, Applicants amended claims 37, 48 and 53 in response to an indication of their allowability, if rewritten in independent form, provided in the Official Action mailed March 28, 2006.

On September 1, 2006, Applicants were telephonically contacted by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of his call during which the Examiner requested further amendment as a precondition to issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

III. DISCUSSION

During the September 1, 2006, call, as Applicants' representative understood the discussion, the Examiner requested the amendment of claim 53 to recite limitations recited in pending claim 48.

To facilitate prosecution of the pending claims, though disagreeing with the basis for the request for amendment, Applicants have amended claim 53. As amended, claim 53 now recites limitations from claim 48 that Applicant believes should address the substance of the Examiner's call of September 1, 2006.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 37, 48 and 53, as amended, along with claims 29-30, 32-36, 38-47, 49-51 and 54 which depend from them, are now in condition for allowance, had been indicated by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants respectfully reiterate their request, first raised in the Amendment After Final of June 28, 2006, that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A that accompanied the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 5, 2006.

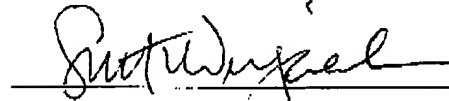
V. CONCLUSION

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 29-30, 32-51 and 53-54 are pending in the application. Applicants submit that the claims, for the reasons set forth above, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

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Dated: September 28, 2006

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